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**DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**

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Paper No. 4

In re application of : **DECISION ON PETITION**
Brian C. Tarbox : **TO MAKE SPECIAL**
Application No. 10/073,632 : **(ACCELERATED EXAMINATION)**
Filed: February 11, 2002
For: **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR**
IMPROVING INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

This is in response to the petition filed on August 11, 2003 to make the above-identified application special on the basis of special examining procedure for certain new applications - accelerated examination as set forth in MPEP § 708.02 VIII. The delay in treating this petition is sincerely regretted.

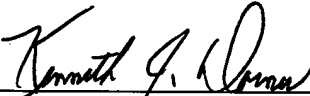
The requirements for granting special status under this section are: (A) a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i); (B) all claims being directed to a single invention, or an election without traverse if the Office determines that all the claims are not directed to a single invention; (C) a statement that a pre-examination search was made listing the field of search; (D) one copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record; and (E) a detailed discussion of how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

Since all of the requirements for special status under MPEP § 708.02 VIII have been met, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if petitioner makes a prompt ***bona fide*** effort, in response to each Office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

SUMMARY: Petition to Make Special **GRANTED**.



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KJD/ekn 9/11/03